

RURAL DISTRICT
OF
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
THE
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER
-1955-



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

- * H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.I.P.H., M.S.I.A.,
also Surveyor to the Council.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS.

- * S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- * E.J. Silvester, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- * A.F.M. Howard, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

- * Qualifications held by these officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Meat & Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. * Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings & Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee
Public Health Committee
Housing Committee.

These Committees are held every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.

- * M.A. Gregory resigned his appointment with the Council on 31st December, 1954.
E.J. Silvester commenced his duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector as from 1st April, 1955.
A.F.M. Howard commenced his duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector & Assistant Surveyor as from 2nd May, 1955.

Chairman & members,
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

Vital Statistics and the incidence of Infectious Disease, with comments thereon, will be found in subsequent pages of this report.

Apart from an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough, the health of the community was satisfactory during the year.

The following notes on general health with present tendencies will be of interest to the Council. The principal causes of adult mortality are vascular lesions of the nervous system, coronary disease and cancer. Lung cancer, especially in the male, has occasioned much investigation and comment in both medical and national press.

The death rate of infants under one year has been nearly halved in less than 20 years. Further reduction will require intensive investigation into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations.

The population is growing more elderly, due principally to the increase in the proportion of those aged 65 years and over. Elderly women are substantially more numerous than men.

Immunisation against the major infectious diseases still requires emphasis. The Minister of Health, in his report for the year 1954 states that only 34.5% of live births are vaccinated against Smallpox. Modern technique in the control of smallpox relies on early diagnosis and isolation, combined with vaccination of all persons known to be contacts. Present day air travel brings the population into close temporal relationship with parts of the world in which smallpox is still endemic. For adequate protection of the population, at least 75% of infants should be vaccinated.

The decreasing incidence and low mortality of Diphtheria should not be viewed with complacency. The only safeguard against a return of Diphtheria is the maintenance of a high level of immunisation.

The severity of measles has declined in recent years. The early infectiousness makes application of preventive measures practically useless. The complications of measles may be dangerous, especially in early life.

Although the number of notified cases of Bacillary Dysentery tends to increase, the severity of the illness is fortunately not great. Infection is rarely conveyed by food, direct or indirect personal contact is mainly responsible. Three quarters of notifications relate to children under 15 years of age; those of 4 and under are especially liable to infection. Like other communicable infections of the intestinal tract, Dysentery has an underground organisation of symptomless excretors only discovered during the bacteriological investigation of an outbreak. Prevention is simple, cleanliness of body and clothing, scrupulous personal hygiene and above all washing of hands after a visit to the toilet.

The made up dish is the principal cause of food poisoning, due to the usual lapse of time between its preparation and eventual consumption. Prompt attention to minor injuries and infections on the hands of food handlers and strict attention to their cleanliness will prevent most outbreaks.

During the last six years, the mortality from Tuberculosis has fallen by 64%; nevertheless the decline in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has not been so great. Tuberculosis is still a serious problem, as more cases come to be known and more patients, due to improved methods of treatment, survive to constitute a reservoir and a source of infection.

Whooping Cough principally affects children under school age when it can be a dangerous disease. Girls are more commonly affected than boys.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has commenced during the preparation of this report and it is hoped that this preventive measure will become a regular feature in the future.

There is a tendency for accidents in the home to increase. Most fatal domestic accidents occur at the two extremes of life; 73% are at ages 65 and over.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that two public sessions, at which 210 donors attended, were held in the Rural District during 1955. During the year, the use of blood increased by 2000 in S.W. England. Recent work on the treatment of severe post-partum haemorrhage by massive transfusion is likely to call for further increases. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.

The positive good health enjoyed by the population nowadays is taken for granted, and it is not sufficiently realised that this is in part due to the health legislation of the last hundred years. During this period the population has almost doubled and the more serious infectious diseases have become practically non-existent. Nevertheless it should be appreciated that a healthy environment for all classes of the community can only be maintained and improved by constant vigilance.

I am grateful to Mr. Taylor and the staff of the Council for their co-operation during the year and assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Area (in acres)	85,388
Population	36,830
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1955 according to the Rate Book).	7,328
Rateable Value	£206,500
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£327.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	235	209	444
Illegitimate	12	6	18
Total Live Births	247	215	462
Crude Birth Rate for the District	12.5 per 1000 of the population		
Adjusted Birth Rate for the District	16.1 per 1000 of the population.		
Birth Rate for England & Wales	15.0 per 1000 of the population.		

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Birth Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Birth Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (i.e. 1.29). The Birth Rates shown above represent a slight decrease as compared with the figures for 1954 which were as follows:-

Crude Birth Rate.	13.6	} per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Birth Rate	17.5	
Birth Rate for England & Wales	15.2	

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	8	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	4	8	12
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	25.3		

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	110	86	196

Crude Death Rate for the District 5.4

Adjusted Death Rate for the District 7.1.

Death Rate for England & Wales 11.7

The population figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Death Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Death Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (ie 1.32). The Rates given above are lower than those given for the year 1954 which were as follows:-

Crude Death Rate. 5.8
Adjusted Death Rate 7.6
Death Rate for England & Wales. 11.3

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	3	2	5
" " Lung, Bronchus	4	1	5
" " Breast	-	7	7
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	11	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	16	22
Coronary disease angina	22	8	30
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart disease	15	9	24
Other circulatory disease	10	9	19
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory sys.	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8	17
Motor vehicle accidents	8	1	9
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	110	86	196

Deaths from Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart Disease were the main contributory causes of death in the Rural District during 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

TABLE 'A'

BIRTHS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	7	1	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	7	1	8

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1000 live births 17.3

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . .24.9.

TABLE 'B'

BIRTHS	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Legitimate	5	-	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	5

The figures quoted in Table 'B' have already been included in Table 'A' above.

It is gratifying to note that the Infant Mortality Rate for the year under review is almost 50% lower than the rate given in the previous year

Table 'B' refers to deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1955 as compared with the years 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954.

DISEASE.	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	155	155	145	145	49	49	21	21	11	11	15	14
Whooping Cough	216	216	149	149	31	31	71	71	36	36	103	103
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	370	370	570	570	102	102	659	659	20	20	293	293
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	6	6	5	4	1	1	4	4	2	2	3	2
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	3	-	10	7	2	1	25	15	8	3	6	3
Dysentery	8	5	29	29	42	42	3	3	6	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	3	3	7	6	1	1	2	2	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	2	2	4	3
Erysipelas	5	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	20	20	12	12	9	9	2	2	8	8	23	23
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ac.Encephalitis	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	788	779	930	925	247	243	788	788	96	87	448	442

There was a sharp rise in the number of notifications of infectious disease received in 1955 as compared with the previous year. This was principally due to an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough.

Although nine cases of Poliomyelitis were notified only five were subsequently confirmed, two of which were classified as of the paralytic type; the remaining three suffered from the non-paralytic form of the disease.

Three individuals were confirmed as suffering from Food Poisoning, Investigations did not discover the source of infection and no secondary cases were reported.

In September, an outbreak of Gastro-enteritis occurred in Stanton St. Quinton and environs involving some thirty households. A total of twenty adults and thirty five children suffered symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pains. No common factors emerged following a detailed enquiry, and a full bacteriological investigation did not confirm the presence of pathogenic organisms in any of the specimens sent off for examination. The outbreak reached its peak during the period 5th - 9th. September, tailing off since.

"a" = Numbers originally notified
 "b" = Final numbers after correction.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year, with comparative figures for previous years since 1948, are given below.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PULMONARY</u>	<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1948	14	7	21
1949	11	10	21
1950	30	2	32
1951	26	7	33
1952	23	5	28
1953	24	8	32
1954	8	3	11
1955	13	1	19

Of the total of eighteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, fifteen of that number were notified by the Royal Air Force Medical Authorities in the district.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1955 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>RESP.</u>		<u>NON-RESP.</u>		<u>RESP.</u>		<u>NON-RESP.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0								
1			1					
5				1				
15	11							
25		2						
35	4							
45					@	2	1	
55								
65 upwards.						1		
TOTAL	15	3	1		3	1	-	-

@ Includes one Registered case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but primary cause of death has been classified by The Registrar General as due to Carcinoma of Stomach. (see page 4)

It should be noted that the above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from Tuberculosis in the Rural District. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the district or move out. Resident in the Rural District at the end of 1955, according to the Registrar of Tuberculous Persons, were the following notified cases:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	79	53	132
Non-Pulmonary	25	25	50
Total:-	104	78	182

LEGISLATION.

During 1955 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important being the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. The latter was laid before Parliament on the 21st. December, 1955 and came into operation on the 1st. January, 1956.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)(Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

The Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas)(No.2) Order, 1955.

The Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 replace Sec.13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food, and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles etc. where food is handled.

The regulations lay down requirements regarding the cleanliness of food premises, stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing.

Persons suffering from or being carriers of certain infections will receive special supervision from the Public Health Department.

The administration of this particular legislation will entail increased sanitary supervision.

The National Assistance Act, 1948.

Sec. 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

On the 25th. May it was found necessary to obtain a Magistrate's Order for the removal of one female to hospital on the grounds that she was of advanced age, unable to look after herself and the premises in which she resided were insanitary.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1955.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
177	166	105	448

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.55

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1357	4029	5386

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1955.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>Ages 15 or over</u>
203	22	14	15

TOTAL : 254

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the financial policy of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, only a little headway has been made in implementing the Council's comprehensive schemes for the district.

The scheme for Biddestone was completed during the year. Sewers have been laid in the village and a pumping station provided. The sewage is pumped to Cross Keys and treated at the Corsham Sewage Disposal Works.

During the year a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of the Parish of Box including new disposal works. This has been adopted by the Council and is awaiting the necessary statutory approvals.

The remaining details of sewerage and sewage disposal in the Rural District are as shown in my Annual Report for 1953.

Samples of effluent from the Council's main sewage works are taken at regular intervals for chemical analysis.

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water Supply.
Annual Report for the Year 1955-6.

During the preparation of this report the Government have announced their policy regarding the restriction of capital expenditure. The Councils policy of pressing ahead with water main extensions since the end of the war has resulted in the district now being substantially served with mains. Probably finality will never be reached for minor extensions, but there seems little possibility of any major extensions being required unless there is any material alteration in the character of the district.

However, the steady trend of increased consumption of water is already being felt and there is no doubt that the question of the renewal or duplication of some distribution mains will have to be considered in the near future. This problem is referred to elsewhere in the report.

Capital Works Completed or Under Construction.

Eastern Area Scheme. The completion of this scheme during the year has already been reported to the Committee. Some trouble continues to be experienced in the rising main from Chippenham to Bowden Hill Reservoir. Elsewhere the mains have given little trouble.

The use which has been made of this scheme to date can be seen from the following figures:-

Miles of mains...	33
Number of agricultural supplies..			57
Number of domestic supplies.	...		216
Consumers (estimated)	767

Rudloe and Widdenham Water Supply. This scheme has now been completed with the exception of the installation of two booster pumps at Widdenham.

The scheme includes an elevated storage tank at Rudloe, distribution mains on the Air Ministry Housing Sites at Rudloe and an 8" main from Fiveways reservoir to Widdenham. This latter main was laid early last summer. Without it there would have been very considerable shortage of water in the Colerne, Box and Neston areas.

With the installation of the booster pumps some saving on the running costs of Widdenham will be obtained.

Velley Hill Booster Station. This station has been running successfully since July last. Its purpose is to enable water from Goodshill Pumping Station to be supplied to the town area of Corsham and to Notton.

Future Capital Works.

Automatic Working at Widdenham. A scheme has been submitted for approval to convert this station to automatic working. At present a full time attendant is employed and considerable overtime is worked. In the proposed new method of working the full time attendant will be employed for most of his time elsewhere in the undertaking, and there will be an anticipated saving of some £280 a year after loan charges have been met.

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Rudloe and Widdenham Water Supply. This scheme as originally proposed included a 50,000 gallon reservoir on a site between Upper Wraxall and Marshfield and a 5" main from Upper Wraxall to the reservoir. This has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government but authority to proceed has not been given.

The intention of this scheme is to give increased storage capacity for Colerne Village and North Wraxall areas. The present storage is limited to a 20,000 gallon water tower at Colerne. As the consumption in this area exceeds 35,000 gallons a day in the summer, the present storage is inadequate and leads to actual failure of the supply on occasions.

The construction of this scheme should not long be delayed.

Box. Most of Box parish is at present supplied from Rudloe through a 4" main. This is working to capacity and at times there is inadequate pressure available in the Box Hill area. The additional Council houses at Hazelbury Hill and the steady development at Kingsdown will tend to cause a still further deterioration in the adequacy of the supply.

At Chapel Plaster and Wadswick complaints are received from time to time of partial failure of the supply due to inadequate pressure.

The most satisfactory answer to both these problems is a new main from Rudloe to Box with a branch main to Chapel Plaster.

At Longsplatt, as the Committee are aware, the supply is unsatisfactory. Ultimately a new main will be required here with an extension to Blue Vein and the Old Jockey.

Corsham. Increasing difficulties are being experienced in maintaining adequate pressures in various parts of Corsham. The supply to Pickwick and the higher parts of the town is from Rudloe through a 5" main which reduces to 3" at Pickwick Depot. If the 5" main at Pickwick Depot is continued to the Hare & Hounds an appreciable improvement in conditions would be obtained.

Occasional reports of poor pressure in Corsham High Street have been received which support my opinion that the mains from Velly Hill to Corsham are working to capacity.

The supply in Paul Street is also poor. This is probably due to internal corrosion of the main and can only properly be overcome by relaying.

There are other places in the parish where there are indications that all is not as it should be, although there may not be a need for immediate action.

Yatesbury. The village is served by a 3" main laid some years ago. This main is connected to the Air Ministry supply at Yatesbury by a 1" pipe. This is likely to prove inadequate in the near future and an improved method of supply will have to be found.

Renewal of Mains. The Council have already decided in principle to relay certain lengths of defective mains.

Apart from those already considered it is desirable to relay a length of main at Pewsham from Derry Hill to Forest Gate and also the main at Bewley Common. Both of these are old and in poor condition.

At Grittleton certain estate mains which have been taken over by the Council are a source of trouble and will ultimately have to be replaced in part, although the position is not serious at present.

Sources.

Abandoned Supplies. During the year the spring supplies at Wick Hill, Foxham and Hilmarton have been abandoned and alternative supplies given by the Eastern Area Scheme.

Widdenham. The yield of the springs recorded during the year fell to 88,000 gallons per day compared with the lowest known yield of 65,000 gallons. As the minimum demand from Widdenham is about 340,000 gallons per day the source has had to be augmented considerably with water obtained from the Borough of Chippenham.

Nettleton. The yield from this source was 19,996,000 gallons in the year compared with 7,267,000 last year. As reported last year the time may come when it will be advisable to abandon this source for reasons of economy.

Goodshill. The dry summer was a good test for this source. The maximum yield of the boreholes has never been ascertained, but from tests made it appeared to be in excess of 110,000 gallons per day. Since August the yield has averaged 165,000 gallons per day. The lowest water level recorded was 99 feet below ground level. This compares with the design figure of 100 feet beyond which the output of the pumps would begin to fall. In a full years working there will be a probable saving of £1,000. over the cost of water from Chippenham Borough which this source replaces.

New Sources. Slightly over half of the Councils water supply is obtained in bulk from the Borough of Chippenham. Recent tests carried out by the Borough indicate that their supply is not inexhaustable and in fact some thought is being given to alternative supplies.

In view of this it does appear desirable that the Councils own potential sources should be examined, although the present supply position may be satisfactory.

Distribution.

Existing Mains. Only a small increase in the milcage of distribution mains has taken place this year.

Repairs. During the year 41 burst mains have been repaired, the majority of these being due to corrosion.

Waste Detection. The position in regard to this activity is, I am sorry to say, no better than the previous year. The key to the problem is of course sufficient labour. The Council have given authority for an increase in the labour force and I hope to be able to report a more satisfactory position next year.

Meters. There are now 931 meters in use. Of the 4,000 odd readings taken during the year none have led to disputes which required action by the Committee.

A new form of meter pit is now being used. This enables meters to be changed simply by one man and should in time result in more efficient maintenance work.

During the year 79 meters have been repaired, tested and returned to service.

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Statistics.

The usual statistics are attached to this report and call for no special comment. In the statement of costs the comparable figures for 1954-5 are slightly different from those reported last year. This is due to the substitution of actual costs now available, for the estimated figures previously used.

Graphs are also attached showing the increase in water consumption and the variations in the cost of water during the last eight years with estimates for the current year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

R. A. Witham

Engineer.

General Statistics.

	<u>1954-5.</u>	<u>1955-6.</u>
Population.	35,990	36,830
Private houses.	7,571	7,620
Ditto, owned by Service Departments.	-	409
Total houses.	-	8,029
Houses supplied with water by R.D.C.	-	5,299
Ditto, by other Authorities.	-	1,135
Total houses supplied with water.	-	6,434
Estimated percentage of population supplied.	82%	85%
New connections made.	192	245
Water meters in use at end of year.	816	931

Production of Water.

<u>Source.</u>			
Chippenham Borough.	Yewstock.	86,912,000	105,185,000
	Corsham.	70,280,000	75,087,000
	Eastern Area.	-	68,237,000
	Other places.	<u>5,283,000</u>	<u>8,024,000</u>
		162,475,000	256,533,000
Widdenham.		124,684,000	90,478,000
Nettleton.		7,267,000	19,996,000
Goodshill.		13,608,000	45,535,000
Washwells.		9,725,000	8,617,000
Hilmarton.		1,270,000*	275,000*
Foxham.		1,926,000	649,000
Slaughterford.		70,000*	70,000*
East Tytherton (Wick Hill)		50,000*	15,000*
Compton Bassett (R.A.F.)		2,541,000	518,000
Yatesbury (R.A.F.)		1,254,000	1,529,000
Goatacre (Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D.C.)		1,752,000	704,000
Stockley (Calne Borough)		<u>377,000</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>326,999,000</u>	<u>424,919,000</u>
		<u>galls:</u>	<u>galls:</u>

*Estimated.

Consumption of Water.

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	<u>1954-5.</u>	<u>1955-6.</u>
Government Establishments:		
Hullavington Aerodrome.	30,033,000	25,045,000
Colerne Aerodrome.	42,297,000	50,529,000
Air Ministry, Rudloe.	2,660,000	3,251,000
War Department, Corsham.	20,778,000	24,879,000
Other Establishments.	<u>2,477,000</u>	<u>920,000</u>
	98,245,000	104,624,000
Devizes R.D.C.	-	32,579,000
Agriculture.	54,880,000	67,743,000
Other Metered supplies.	9,693,000	12,196,000
Domestic and Unmetered supplies.	<u>164,181,000</u>	<u>207,777,000</u>
	<u>326,999,000</u>	<u>424,919,000</u>

Rainfall.
Recorded at Widdenham Pumping Station.

	<u>1954-5.</u>	<u>1955-6.</u>
April.	1.69	1.04
May.	1.76	4.99
June.	5.12	3.53
July.	2.16	0.49
August.	3.67	0.62
September.	3.66	1.19
October.	3.35	1.59
November.	6.04	3.58
December.	2.83	3.77
January.	3.27	4.45
February.	2.28	0.02
March.	<u>1.58</u>	<u>1.00</u>
	<u>37.41</u> <u>ins.</u>	<u>26.27</u> <u>ins.</u>

Distribution of Public Supplies.

16

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Mileage of mains.</u>	<u>Sources.</u>
Biddestone.	4.9	Chippenham Borough. Slaughterford.
Box.	14.9	Widdenham. Washwells.
Bremhill.	12.6	Chippenham Borough.
Calne Without.	11.2	Chippenham Borough.
Castle Combe.	4.6	Chippenham Borough.
Cherhill.	3.1	Air Ministry. Chippenham Borough.
Chippenham Without.	1.7	Chippenham Borough.
Christian Malford.	4.6	Chippenham Borough.
Colerne.	6.7	Widdenham.
Compton Bassett.	3.2	Chippenham Borough.
Corsham.	21.9	Chippenham Borough. Widdenham. Goodshill.
Grittleton.	9.1	Chippenham Borough.
Heddington.	2.6	Chippenham Borough.
Hilmarton.	7.6	Chippenham Borough.
Kington Langley.	5.2	Chippenham Borough.
Kington St. Michael.	6.8	Chippenham Borough.
Lacock.	8.5	Chippenham Borough. Goodshill.
Langley Burrell Without.	4.8	Chippenham Borough.
Nettleton.	5.2	Nettleton.
North Wraxall.	3.9	Widdenham. Chippenham Borough.
Pewsham.	10.0	Chippenham Borough.
Stanton St. Quintin.	2.8	Chippenham Borough.
Sutton Benger.	4.4	Chippenham Borough.
Yatton Keynell.	5.2	Chippenham Borough.
Chippenham Borough.	<u>0.5</u>	---
TOTAL.	<u>166.0</u> miles.	

Corresponding figure 1954-5. 163.5 miles.

NOTE: The West Gloucestershire Water Company supply the village of Burton in the Parish of Nettleton; and Calne Borough supply Mile Elm in the Parish of Calne Without. Chippenham Borough supply Bungalow Sites and Government Establishments at Corsham and Box.

Production and Distribution Costs.

<u>Production only.</u>	<u>Pence per 1,000 galls.</u>	<u>1954-5</u>	<u>Pence per 1,000 galls.</u>	<u>1955-6</u>
		<u>Percentage of total supply.</u>		<u>Percentage of total supply.</u>
<u>Source.</u>				
Chippenham Borough.				
Yewstock.	9.6d	26%	9.9d	25%
Corsham.	13.1d	22%	13.1d	18%
Eastern Area.	-	-	12.0d *	16%
Elsewhere.	17.9d	2%	16.8d	2%
Widdenham.	7.2d	38%	12.2d	21%
Nettleton.	43.5d	2%	14.9d	5%
Goodshill.	20.4d	4%	5.4d	10%
Other Sources.	6.7d	6%	6.1d	3%

*Interim charge.

Note: The above figures represent wages, transport, fuel, materials and repairs only. Depreciation, rates, loan charges, administration expenses, etc. are not included.

<u>Production and Distribution.</u>	<u>1954-5. pence.</u>	<u>1955-6. pence.</u>
Average cost of production.	12.0d	11.1d
Distribution.	6.3d	5.4d
Administration.	4.3d	4.0d
Rates, etc.	1.0d	0.8d
Loan charges.	<u>9.4d</u>	<u>8.3d</u>
TOTAL:	<u>33.0d</u> per 1,000 galls.	<u>29.6d</u> per 1,000 galls.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO:- The Chairman & members of the Calne & Chippenham
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
a report on the activities of the Public Health Department
during 1955.

A great deal of your Officers' time has been devoted to a detailed housing survey in order to obtain an accurate estimate of the total number of unfit houses in the Council's area. The housing return sent to the Minister of Housing & Local Government in August indicated that approximately 284 unfit houses existed in the district.

Many more house owners have applied to the Council for Improvement Grants under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949. The number of applications received was 94, and of these, 76 were approved. The value of Grants approved amounted to approximately £20,000: the corresponding figure for 1954 was £11,000.

The routine work of the department has continued steadily throughout the year and the details of this work are set out under the respective headings in the body of the report.

The anticipated new Food & Drugs legislation did not come into operation until January, 1956, and so I shall be reporting more fully on this aspect of our work next year.

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Council for their continued support and to acknowledge the help and advice so readily given by Dr. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health.

The officers and staff of the department have worked efficiently and diligently during the year, with the result that general health conditions in the Council's district have been maintained and improved.

Yours obediently,

H.J. TAYLOR.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS.

<u>General Sanitation.</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Water supply	373	475
Drainage	429	591
Stables & Piggeries	11	20
Fried Fish Shops	1	14
Licensed premises	9	45
Tents, vans and sheds	193	181
Factories - Power	33	45
Factories - No Power	8	4
Outworkers	-	25
Workplaces	1	1
Bakehouses	20	25
Public Conveniences	50	58
Theatres and places of entertainment	2	8
Refuse collection	14	42
Refuse disposal	144	125
Rats and mice	6	13
Atmospheric pollution	-	1
Schools	1	1
Shops	9	33
Nuisances	349	109
Sanitary survey	-	99
Water samples	285	309
Sewage samples	19	14
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	153	173

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts:-			
No. of houses inspected	7	18	
Visits paid to above houses		149	72
Under Housing Acts:-			
No. of houses inspected	250	321	
Visits paid to above houses		180	446
Overcrowding.			
No. of houses inspected	5	-	
Visits paid to above houses		11	17
Filthy or verminous premises.			
No. of premises inspected	8	5	
Visits paid to above houses		22	37
Miscellaneous housing visits		343	722

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of infectious diseases	67	71
Visits re disinfection	8	33
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	33	52
Food poisoning enquiries	37	4

Meat and Food Inspection.

Inspection of meat:		
Visits to slaughterhouses and knacker's yard	8	4
" shops and stalls	1	-
" other premises	1	-

Visits to:

Butchers	4	40
Fishmongers & poulterers	2	-
Grocers	16	40
Greengrocers and fruiterers	1	2
Dairies and milk distributors	68	40
Ice cream premises	27	18
Food preparing premises	4	7
Market stalls	2	-
Restaurants and cafes	14	42
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	3	6
Canteens	-	2

	1955	1954
Visits in connection with sampling.		
Milk, bacteriological.	143	72
Milk, biological.	16	15
Ice cream.	119	47
Miscellaneous food visits.	14	-
	270	344
	3403	4200

DRAINAGE.

Nuisances.

Each year it becomes necessary to deal with many complaints of nuisances from drainage matter discharging to ditches etc. in parishes without main drainage. In some cases it is possible to abate the nuisances, but it often happens that the steps taken only remedy the nuisance temporarily and the only permanent solution is the construction of new sewers and sewage disposal works. With 18 parishes still without these amenities, it will be many years before the district is adequately sewered.

Connections to Sewer.

Castle Combe.

In 1954, 34 house properties in Castle Combe had been connected to the sewer: a further 15 were connected this year. It may be necessary to serve statutory notices on the few remaining property owners (under the Public Health Act, 1936) who have not connected their property to the new sewer, and where the existing drainage facilities are unsatisfactory.

Biddestone.

The new sewerage scheme for Biddestone came into operation on 3rd December, 1955. Every effort will be made in 1956 to ensure that properties in the village are connected to the sewer and thus remedy the nuisance in the sewer ditch which at present receives most of the drainage from Biddestone.

Baker's Corner, Neston.

A further length of sewer has been laid at Baker's Corner to enable 5 properties not within reach of the existing sewer to have main drainage facilities.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

It has been possible this year to devote more time to the sampling of the effluents from the Council's various sewage disposal works. The reports received are passed on to the Council's Engineer so that he may take any action considered necessary to ensure that the various works are functioning satisfactorily.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Ford	1	2
Colerne	4	6
Corsham	4	-
Lacock	5	-
Castle Combe	2	4
Langley Burrell	-	1
Compton Bassett	1	1
Box	1	-
Hilmarton	-	1
	18	15

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Box - Ladies' & Gentlemen's Conveniences.

Corsham - Post Office Lane, Ladies' & Gentlemen's Conveniences.
Station Road, Gentlemen's Convenience.

These conveniences have been satisfactorily maintained by two part-time attendants.

Castle Combe.

A new Public Convenience for Ladies and Gentlemen has been constructed during the year and it became available to the public on 31st October, 1955.

This picturesque Cotswold village attracts many visitors from all parts of the world and the new conveniences will provide a service which the village has urgently needed.

Colerne.

The new Public Convenience here is almost completed and it should be in operation early in 1956.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

I am pleased to report that the refuse collection service operated smoothly throughout the year, despite the difficulty of obtaining labour. Occasionally complaints were received of non-collection of refuse from individual householders, but taking things as a whole, ratepayers were given a regular service.

As more houses are erected each year, the need for more labour becomes apparent and it was necessary to employ an additional ashbinman. The present labour force consists of one working foreman, 3 drivers, 6 loaders and 1 tip attendant.

The quantity of refuse disposed of increased from 5551 tons to 6847 tons and this high tonnage could not have been handled without the aid of the mechanical muledozer.

The four refuse disposal tips have been well maintained at very low cost to the Council.

I would like to pay tribute to the outside staff, who have kept the service functioning throughout the year in all winds and weather.

Total mileage, 4 vehicles	33,581	(26,274)
Petrol, gallons	2,661	(2,483)
Diesel oil, gallons	436	(830)

Refuse costs.

Total costs.	£7,516	(£5,528)
Collection.	£5,978	(£4,226)
Disposal.	£1,538	(£1,302)

Per thousand population.

Collection.	£166. 1. 1.	(£116.12. 4)
Disposal.	42.14. 5.	(£35. 8. 4)
	£208.15. 6.	(£152. 0. 8)

Per head of population.

Collection.	3/3.8d	(2/4.4d)
Disposal.	10.2d	(8.7d)

Per ton of refuse.

			Tons
545	loads at 4 tons 17 cwts. 2 qrs.		2657
223	" 2 tons 6 cwts. 1 qr.		516
1010	" 3 tons 12 cwts. 3 qrs.		<u>3674</u>
1778 (1520)			6847 (5551)
= £1. 1. 11 per ton (19/11d)			

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

For a number of years the Council has purchased dustbins and sold them to householders at cost price plus a small delivery charge and 131 bins have been sold during the year.

In November when the Government levied purchase tax of 7/- to 8/- on dustbins the Council decided to discontinue this service to the public.

Litter Baskets.

The 18 existing litter baskets have been maintained and two additional baskets have been fitted at Colerne.

I have once again to refer to the wilful damage caused to these containers and to report that at the lay-by, Bristol Road, Ford, two baskets were stolen, together with the wooden stakes to which they were attached.

SALVAGE.

In order to offset the rising costs entailed in the collection and baling of waste paper an intensive drive to increase the quantity of paper salvaged was initiated, and as a result, some 20 tons of additional waste paper has been collected. A record total of 203 tons, valued at £1700, was collected and an anticipated loss has been turned into a small surplus.

Scrap Metal.

The amount of scrap metal recovered at the various refuse tips was disappointingly small and it is hoped to step up the quantity salvaged in the future.

It has been extremely difficult to obtain an outlet for such material and when a purchaser has been found, he has only been prepared to accept selected materials from the scrap and the remainder has had to be buried with the refuse.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trade establishments as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the area of the Council.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

The 4 fried fish shops situated at Box, Corsham & Colerne have been reasonably maintained.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 269. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.
Licences authorising persons to erect or station and use
Moveable Dwellings.

The number of moveable dwelling licences approved has increased from 74 to 84. With the provision of so many new dwelling-houses it is surprising to report that the number of persons using caravans for permanent housing accommodation is still on the increase.

A serious problem concerning the siting of caravans was created at Colerne when service personnel occupying caravans on the perimeter of Colerne Aerodrome were instructed to find alternative parking places. Many caravans were placed on land where main drainage was not available. Negotiations are proceeding with the owner of an ex-R.A.F. Dispersal Site to convert this into a permanent caravan site with main drainage, a piped water supply and other necessary facilities.

A permanent caravan site, capable of receiving 29 caravans, is under construction at Box and should be available early in 1956.

Parishes in which Moveable Dwellings are situated.

Box	12
Bremhill	6
Calne Wt.	4
Cherhill	5
Chippenham Wt.	8
Christian Malford	2
Colerne	10
Corsham	16
Heddington	1
Hilmarton	6
Kington St. Michael	2
Lacock	2
North Wraxall	2
Pewsham	1
Stanton St. Quintin	2
Sutton Bengier	4
Yatton Keynell	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Filthy & Verminous Premises or Articles and
Verminous Persons.

There has been a slight increase in the number of verminous premises visited and treated, but on the whole the district is relatively free from this form of infestation.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938. Sections 13, 14 & 15.

Byelaws re handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and
sale of food in the open air (made under Section 15, Food
& Drugs Act, 1938).

Routine inspection of food premises continued during the year and 141 inspections were made.

The eagerly-awaited new Food legislation did not come into operation during the year, but when it does become law, a complete survey of all food premises will be undertaken.

Food Premises in the Area.

General Stores	48
Grocers	17
Bakers	12
Butchers	11

Sweet shops	11
Fish & Fruit	4
Fish & Chips	4
Cafes	12
Chemists	4
Travelling snacks	2

Registration of Premises used in connection with the
Manufacture or Sale of Preserved Foods, etc.

Six premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, manufacture and sale of sausages and cooked meats. These premises have been well maintained.

The premises are situated at:-

Box	1
Calne Wt.	1
Corsham	3
Lacock	1

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.
Schedule of Condemned Foods, 1955.

<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Chicken soup	11 x 1 lb.	Curdled.
Caviare	1 x 3½ oz.	Punctured tin.
Fruit pulp	2 x 10 lb.	Blown tin.
<u>Meat & Offal.</u>	185 lb.	Putrefaction.
	48 lb.	Bone taint.

Sections 13 & 14.
Registration of Premises used in connection with the
Manufacture or Sale of Ice-cream.

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Council's district.

69 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, an increase of 4 over last year.

A very close check on ice-cream was maintained during the unusually warm and prolonged summer weather and some 122 samples were taken for examination.

The high proportion of Grade III & IV was almost entirely due to samples of a particular brand of ice-cream continually failing to pass the routine test. Close liaison with the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the Council from whose area the ice-cream was being obtained, was maintained, and every effort was made to find the cause of the failure of the ice-cream to pass the appropriate test.

Ice-cream Sampling.

<u>Provisional Grade.</u>				
I	II	III	IV	TOTAL
73(40)	21(1)	20(2)	8(-)	122(43)

LICENSED PREMISES.

During the year 9 inspections have been made of Licensed Premises and at 5 premises improvements have been carried out, including the provision of improved lavatory accommodation, hot water systems, laying on of mains water supply and connection of property to a public sewer.

BAKEHOUSES.

25 inspections have been made of the 12 bakehouses now in use in the Council's district. The conditions at the Bakehouse, Cherhill, were not satisfactory and the proprietor has been pressed to carry out improvements.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938, PART V.
The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.

No private slaughter-houses are in operation in the Council's district. All home-killed meat is obtained from Chippenham, Bath or Bristol.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938. Section 58.
Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

The knacker's yard at Heddington has been well maintained and the existing licence was renewed for a further 12 months.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.
Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

3 slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year to men engaged on slaughtering animals at the knacker's yard, Heddington.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)
Regulations, 1954.

The provisions of the above Regulations have been brought to the notice of the licensed slaughtermen in the Council's district.

FOOD & DRUGS ACTS 1938, & FOOD & DRUGS (MILK
& DAIRIES & ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950.
Registration of Dairies, other than Dairy Farms,
and of Distributors.

68 inspections of dairies have been carried out and no serious contraventions of the Food & Drugs Acts have to be reported.

No. of registered dairies	14 (10)
No. of registered distributors	26 (22)

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)(SPECIFIED AREAS)
NO. 2 ORDER, 1955.

This Order came into operation on the 6th December, 1955.

The Local Authorities comprising Area 8 of the Schedule include:-

Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham; Urban Districts of Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury ; Rural Districts of Bradford and Melksham, Calne and Chippenham, Dursley, Sodbury, Thornbury, Warminster and Westbury. In these specified areas it is illegal for any person to sell by retail for human consumption, any milk other than milk which may be sold as specially designated milk in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54, or the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53, and all retailers selling milk in the areas specified (whether or not their premises are situated in any such area) will require to be licensed by the appropriate licensing authority to use a Special Designation in relation to milk.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949 - 1953.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation	"Pasteurised"	...16(10)
" " " supplementary	"	... 6(7)

The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk)
Regulations, 1949 - 1954.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation "T.T"	...17(11)
" " supplementary	" " 7(8)

Milk Sampling.

Following the receipt of a circular letter from the County Medical Officer of Health, asking for more sampling of the milk supplies throughout the County, more time has been devoted to this work and considerably more samples have been taken this year than in 1954.

All pasteurised milk samples have been taken by the County Sanitary Inspector.

Methylene Blue Test (for keeping quality).

<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
134(60)	23(7)	157(67)

Phosphatase Test (for efficient pasteurisation).

NIL (9)

Biological (for presence of tuberculosis).

21(20)	NIL(-)	21(20)
--------	--------	--------

The percentage of milk samples failing to pass the prescribed tests has increased from 11% in 1954 to 14%. The exceptional summer may have been the cause for this increase.

It is satisfactory to report that all samples submitted for biological examination proved to be free from tubercle bacilli.

SHOPS ACT, 1950. Section 38.

It has not been possible to devote much time to Shops inspections, but 9 premises were visited and found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1955.

- No. of new houses and flats completed during the year:
 - by local authority 58
 - by private enterprise 58
- Inspection of dwellings during the year.
 - Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts. 7
 - " " Hsg. " 250
 - No. of dwellings found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 49
 - No. of dwellings found not to be in all respects fit for habitation. 17
- Remedy of defects by informal action.

No. of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action (not "fit in all respects"). 14

No. of dwellings demolished in consequence of informal action.

4. Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health Act & Housing Acts).

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16, Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -
2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notice -
 - a. by owners. -
 - b. by local authority in default of owners -

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Act.

1. No. of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served. -
2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of demolition orders made -
2. No. of houses demolished as a result of demolition orders -
3. No. of undertakings accepted -
4. No. of undertakings completed -

(D) Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26, Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of houses under which demolition orders were made -
2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders -

(E) Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made -
2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as result of premises having been made fit -

5. Housing Act, 1936. Pt. IV. Overcrowding.

1. No. of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year. Not known.
2. No. of cases discovered during the year 2
3. No. of cases abated during the year -
4. No. of cases investigated 2
5. No. of visits made 17

*

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954.

Re-survey of previous Category 4 & 5 houses.

	<u>No. of houses</u>
Biddestone	17
Box	45
Bremhill	16
Calne Wt.	47
Castle Combe	6
Cherhill	23
Chippenham Wt.	5
Christian Malford	6
Colerne	8
Compton Bassett	-
Corsham	27
Grittleton	5
Heddington	14

	<u>No. of houses</u>
Hilmarton	4
Kington Langley	11
Kington St. Michael	1
Lacock	11
Langley Burrell Wt.	2
Nettleton	4
North Wraxall	4
Pewsham	9
Stanton St. Quintin	4
Sutton Benger	2
Yatton Keynell	13

✱

The detailed housing survey started in 1954 to ascertain the extent of the Council's slum clearance problem was continued during 1955 and some 250 houses were inspected.

The number of unfit houses is estimated to be 284, but I am of the opinion that many owners of unfit houses may be prepared to give written undertakings to the Council, to render their houses fit for occupation and the number likely to be scheduled for demolition may be approximately 100 to 150. ✱

HOUSING ACT, 1949. Improvement Grants.

There has been an astonishing number of enquiries and applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and this work has taken up a great deal of my own time and that of your other Officers.

A summary of the applications dealt with during 1955 is set out below; the corresponding figures for 1954 are shown in brackets.

No. of applications carried forward from 1954	... 6
No. of applications received	... 94 (49)
" " approved	... 76 (40)
" " refused	... - (6)
" " withdrawn	... 6 (1)
" " under consideration	19
Value of Improvement Grants authorised,	£20,136 (£11,167)
No. of properties to which works have been completed with aid of an Improvement Grant	... 52

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council's Rodent Officer has been kept fully engaged making surveys and carrying out treatments and his activities have materially assisted in keeping the rat menace under reasonable control.

All the Council's refuse tips have been visited regularly and treatments have been immediately carried out where infestations have been located.

The Council's sewers and sewage disposal works at Box, Castle Combe, Colerne and Lacock have all been treated and found to be free from infestation.

Parish.	Pri- vate prems. ins- pected.	Treat- ments carr. out.	Bus- iness prems. inspect- ed.	Treat- ments carr. out.	Council House Inspns.	Treat- ments carr. out
Biddestone.	54	3	14	1	14	-
Box.	121	14	25	5	22	1
Bremhill.	35	-	9	-	8	-
Calne Wt.	32	-	8	-	6	-
Cherhill.	44	4	13	-	20	5
Castle Combe.	53	2	18	-	-	-
Chippenham Wt.	38	2	6	-	-	-
Christian Malford.	46	5	9	-	-	-
Colerne.	45	-	23	-	6	-
Compton Bassett.	42	4	10	-	10	1
Corsham.	222	15	81	10	26	5
Grittleton.	43	3	12	-	-	-
Heddington.	42	6	11	1	8	2
Hilmarton.	50	-	11	-	20	4
Kington Langley.	32	-	7	-	-	-
Kington St. Michael.	37	2	11	-	4	-
Lacock.	74	8	19	1	20	-
Langley Burrell Wt.	30	-	3	-	2	-
Nettleton.	39	-	1	-	-	-
North Wraxall.	34	2	6	-	-	-
Pewsham.	34	4	7	1	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	39	-	13	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	38	1	11	-	6	-
Yatton Keynell.	41	-	11	-	4	-
	1265	75	339	19	176	18

Refuse Tips, etc.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>
Biddestone.	33	24
Sutton Benger.	36	23
Burton.	28	20
Spirthill.	27	9
Nethermore.	17	5
Inwood.	32	18
Box Sewer Beds.	35	23
Colerne Sewage Works.	1	-
Corsham Sewage Works.	10	3
Castle Combe " "	-	-
Woodlands Paper Depot.	13	6
	<u>232</u>	<u>131</u>
Banks, hedgerows and ditches.	76	46
Agricultural properties.	71	10

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

	L.A.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Agri- cul- tural.	All other inc. bus- iness & indus- trial.	TOTAL
1. Total No. of prop- erties in L.A. district.	35	8333	507	269	9144
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as result of					
a. notification.	4	27	15	14	60
b. survey or otherwise.	10	505	111	147	773

3. No. of properties inspected (see Sec.2) which were found to be infested by rats.					
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	8	25	7	12	52
4. No. of properties inspected (see Sec.2) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	3	-	4	7
5. No. of infested properties (see Secs. 3 & 4) treated by L.A.	8	28	7	16	59
6. No. of notices served under Sec.4.					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural works (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
8. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
9. No. of "block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Samples.

The Council's new Eastern Area Public Water Supply came into use at the beginning of the year and monthly routine samples have been taken from this supply.

All samples are submitted to the Salisbury Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination. If any of such samples fail to pass the required tests, the Council's Engineer is informed and he immediately arranges for a special investigation to ascertain the cause of the unsatisfactory report.

Samples of water from the Council's main water sources are also taken for Chemical Analysis, so that reports are available showing the physical characteristics of these supplies.

Water Supplies - Analysis of Results.

<u>Source of Water.</u>	<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Suspect.</u>	<u>Unfit.</u>
Widdenham, Box.	29	4	4
Goodshill.	9	1	-
Washwells, Box.	5	7	1
Nettleton.	10	2	-
Slaughterford.	1	2	-
Biddestone (Regional)	4	-	-
Grittleton "	4	-	-
Kington St. Michael "	3	1	-
West Kington "	4	-	-
Burton (West Glos.)	4	-	-

	<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Suspect.</u>	<u>Unfit.</u>
Eastern Area Water Scheme:			
(Cherhill	10	-	-
(Sandy Lane	10	5	-
(Heddington	12	-	-
(Bremhill	4	2	1
(Hilmarton	6	4	-
(Compton Bassett	12	-	-
Foxham	2	-	1
Wick Hill	-	1	1
Yatesbury (R.A.F.)	12	-	-
Cherhill (Blackford)	5	-	-
Sutton Benger (Regional)	4	-	-
East Tytherton "	3	-	-
Theobalds Green (Calne Borough)	5	-	-
Cherhill (Compton Bassett Water Co.)	8	2	-
Hilmarton (Hilmarton)	2	5	1
Hilmarton (Wootton Bassett)	3	-	-
	<u>171</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>9</u>

13 chemical samples were satisfactory.

OUTWORKERS.
Factories Act, 1937. Section 110.

The number of registered outworkers has again decreased from 88 in 1954 to 59, and the distribution of such workers is as follows:-

Biddestone	2
Corsham	45
Pox	9
Lacock	1
Yatton Keynell	1
Calne Wt.	1
	<u>59</u>

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948 (Part I of the Act).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	9	33	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	76	8	-
Total:-	<u>85</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>-</u>

2. No. of cases in which defects were found.

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insp.</u>
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u> (Sec. 7).				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	1
(b) unsuitable	1	2	-	1
(c) not separate	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Total:-	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

41 inspections of factories have been made,
and only in two cases has it been necessary to ask for
improvements to sanitary accommodation.

